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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

TheHighlander

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INSIDE: A LOOK BACK AT 2014 - SEE PAGE 22



Photo by Mark Arike

About 150 people from Haliburton, including several Highland Storm Hockey players, filled two coach buses to see local hockey stars Cody Hodgson (left in suit) and Matt Duchene (right in suit) play at the First Niagara Center in Buffalo on Dec. 20. The Colorado Avalanche defeated the Buffalo Sabres 5-1. See more photos on pages 28 and 29.

Matt and Cody's biggest fans invade Buffalo

By Mark Arike Staff writer

A large contingent of hockey fans from the Haliburton Highlands boarded one of two coach buses on Dec. 20 for a trip of a lifetime.

About 150 people, including several Highland Storm hockey players and their parents, departed from A.J. LaRue Arena in the morning to head to Buffalo for an opportunity to not only see some live NHL action, but also have a chance to meet local hockey heroes Matt Duchene of the Colorado

Avalanche and Cody Hodgson of the Buffalo Sabres.

On the four-hour ride to the border, the anticipation was building as kids and parents watched two hockey-based films including Miracle and Haliburton's hockey documentary There's Something in the Water?

"I'm excited about the game," said Liam McCracken, a 13-year-old Haliburton resident who plays county league hockey.

McCracken won two tickets through a draw conducted by the Highland Storm. He gave the other ticket to his father and his parents

paid to bring his brother along.

"It was cool," he said, referring to the news that he had won.

This was McCracken's first trip to an NHL game.

"I'm excited for the game. It's been a long trip, so it better be worth it," he smiled.

Later that night, just prior to the Sabres versus Avalanche game, McCracken ended up being the lucky winner of a Brian Gionta jersey.

Paige and Chloe Billings were excited to see both teams play and have an opportunity to meet Duchene and Hodgson after the game.

"This is the best day of my life, ever!" said Chloe, who plays for the Highland Storm Atom AE team.

Her sister, who plays for the Bancroft Jets, said she hoped to get some autographs and pictures with the hometown favourites.

The trip was organized by Janis Parker, owner of Parker Pad & Printing Ltd., and sponsored by her company to mark Parker Pad's fifth anniversary in Haliburton. The company made a \$5,000 contribution to assist

See "Storm" on page 29



Highlander news



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Dysart keeping rec coordinator, expanding role

By Mark Arike

Staff writer

After more than a year with the municipality, Andrea Mueller will continue on as the recreation program coordinator in Dysart.

In a closed session meeting on Dec. 15, councillors approved the rehiring of Mueller commencing the start of the new year.

"She will not only be fulfilling the recreation programming role, but she will also provide administrative assistance to the director of parks and recreation and be responsible for coordination of events that the municipality organizes such as the Frost Festival ..." wrote CAO Tamara Wilhee in an email.

Mueller will also manage the park use agreements with outside event organizers and pursue and create new events.

A Markham native, Mueller first moved to the area in 1999 to join the Haliburton County Outdoor Centres internship program. She then moved to Thompson, a city in northern Manitoba, for seven years before returning to Haliburton last year with her husband Jason.

Her part-time position with the municipality has been funded by a grant from the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund. Some of Mueller's accomplishments

include launching events such as the first Ugly Sweater Run/Walk and a mountain biking festival in Head Lake Park.

In an interview with the paper in August, Mueller said she was planning on organizing an event similar to Tough Mudder, a festival to showcase outdoor sports and recreation in the summer, and more winter "try it" activities.

A new recreation committee, which will support Mueller's efforts, will include councillors Andrea Roberts, Walt McKechnie and Tammy Donaldson.







Highlander news

EMS ready for ebola

By Lisa Harrison Contributing writer

While it seems unlikely the deadly Ebola virus will travel to this region, the Haliburton County Paramedic Service (HCPS) is ready in case it does.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care began issuing directives to health care workers, including paramedics, this fall as a result of Ebola outbreaks in West Africa and reported cases in the U.S.

HCPS paramedics received their first Ebola directive from the ministry in November. HCPS immediately set up training and began purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE), according to Craig Jones, the county's chief and director of emergency services.

Ebola is a rare viral disease that can infect both humans and non-human primates (monkeys, for example), according to the ministry's website. Those infected can become very ill, and in severe cases may bleed from different parts of the body.

The virus is not easily contracted, as it is spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids rather than by air or casual contact. However, health care workers must take extensive precautions to avoid contamination.

HCPS paramedic Carl Northey is conducting Ebola directives training for his peers. He said training began online for individuals, and then a "train the trainer" package was developed for departments to train front line staff in-house.

"We went through the package, and we went to the hospital ... and went through their package, because we're going to be going to the hospital so we needed to know how we're really [going to] interact with them," said Northey. "Each hospital has how they're going to receive the patient so we need to follow their direction and expectations when we're coming in."

In addition to continual bulletin updates from the ministry, Ebola training includes a two-hour session involving education on the virus and how to protect oneself, policies and procedures on how to conduct a call where Ebola is suspected or confirmed, and how to



Photo submitted by Craig Jones

Trainer Carl Northey demonstrates the personal protective equipment to be worn by paramedics dealing with suspected or confirmed patient cases of the potentially fatal Ebola virus.

use a quick screening tool in order to identify or rule out Ebola.

"This is followed by practical training on how to properly put on and take off the personal protective equipment," said Northey.

The equipment includes an inner suit, an N95 face mask, knee-high booties, short gloves pulled over the suit sleeves, an impermeable gown, longer gloves pulled over the gown sleeves, goggles, a hood, and a complete face shield.

To assist in the process, a second ambulance crew or a supervisor would be dispatched to the scene to function as safety officer, ensuring all PPE steps are followed precisely, sealing the patient compartment of the ambulance, driving the ambulance, and performing communications, according to

HCPS paramedics are more comfortable having the training, particularly as it helps dispel many of the myths and rumours around Ebola, said Northey.

"The older guys have been through SARS [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome]," added Northey. "I think that was scarier."

At least four suits are required for each patient call in order to complete all necessary preparation and decontamination functions, said Jones.

The department has acquired approximately 150-200 of each of suit sizes, XS to 5XL. Two suits in each size are assigned for training and replaced as needed. The supplies were purchased in bulk at a cost of about \$5,000, according to Jones.

He said the ministry has indicated it will cover all costs associated with Ebola cases, including transportation, and although it appears that this may have been directed at health care facilities, "we're hopeful."







Our full page ad in The Highlander newspaper was very successful beyond belief. *The phone was ringing off the* hook. We have never before had a response like this.

> - Angie Garot Chaulk Woodworking































Editorial opinion

A look back at 2014

I'm always amazed, when we put together our last issue of the year, at how much stuff has happened over the previous 12 months in Haliburton County.

We like to dedicate some space to look back on the year that was. We go through our archives and pick out the stories that readers got excited about. Some are controversial, others are feel-good features – and there are always so many.

This year, we tried to narrow it down to 10: ten stories that tell the tale of 2014. It's hard to do from an initial list of nearly 35, but we managed. And while our list contains a touch of sports and a bit of crime, even some tragedy, it's politics that dominates.

Undoubtedly, this was a year of elections – both provincial and municipal.

Thankfully, the provincial elections came and went fairly quickly. However, the municipal elections lasted an exhausting 10 months. And the real story of that election was about change.

Some municipalities wanted change, others didn't, but in three of the four municipalities, change was on the table.

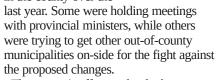
Both Highlands East and Dysart et al voters were treated to exciting reeve races. Both communities stuck with their incumbents, but it was refreshing to have a choice between two strong candidates.

In Minden Hills, Barb Reid made voters' decisions on whether or not to oust her from office an easy one, but they still had to choose between Brent Devolin and Brigitte Gall. Their choice was clear, and Devolin now sits at the head of Minden's table. In his first year of office, all eyes will be on him to right the ship that so drastically got off course this last term.

But while Devolin's rise was arguably one of the most talked about stories of the year, even it was, and likely will continue to be,

overshadowed by the upcoming changes to the OPP billing model.

It seemed like OPP billing was on the lips of every politician in the county over the



The county's efforts to battle the new model, which would mean drastic cost increases for OPP services in the area, culminated in #MayDay – a day when residents were encouraged to tweet, Facebook, write or call MPPs and urge them to hear our plight.

It was an exciting day for Haliburton County, though the results maybe weren't what were hoped for.

But when Murray Fearrey accepted the Haliburton County Warden's chain of office for 2015, he said the fight isn't over. And so we're looking to see how the new OPP model plays out in the new year.

If anything, 2014 was a year that set us up for the future. The hospital's integration plan has been implemented and continues to evolve, with the hope of handling everincreasing demands for services; and we have elected the people we want to lead us forward as we face some daunting

It's certain that 2015 will have its surprises, but we've done our best to prepare. Now all we can do is hang on for the ride.



By Matthew **Desrosiers**

Winds of change

There was a feeling in the room that night. the municipality was Something new was starting. A curtain was lifting and hope was about to be restored.

Minden Hills Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch summed it up best when she had an opportunity to address the citizens who attended to watch the installation of the new municipal council in Minden Hills.

"I am happy to be here," she said. "No, I mean it, I am happy to be here, really."

Murdoch wasn't referring to her election victory, although there might have been a small touch of that as she thanked those who voted for her. She was alluding to her experiences of the past four years as the deputy reeve when attendance at the council meetings for the 11 year veteran of municipal politics was less than a pleasant experience; when going to "work" was a chore rather than an interesting challenge or even inspiring.

As a reporter, over the years I have watched councils at work in various municipalities and always held the greatest admiration for those who step forward to help guide their community. It is a selfless job filled with hours of reading, meetings, plodding through documents and background material. The meetings often consist of dull and routine pieces of business, all necessary for the smooth operation of the municipality they are charged with leading, but dull nonetheless.

And then there are those rare moments of, dare I call it, excitement, when a new idea or program is introduced and everyone is working together for something better. It is these nuggets of progress that motivate and reward the councillors, the council and the municipal staff. It is in these moments that the councillors can find the satisfaction in making a change for the betterment of their fellow citizens.

Unfortunately, the past four years at Minden Hills has been less than inspiring. In-fighting, slate-driven voting, policies being forced on people and staff, outbursts of irrational anger and vitriol created a chaotic environment in which basically very little was accomplished. It seemed

in constant turmoil, which resulted in a demoralized staff, many of whom sought out better opportunities elsewhere, and a dispirited citizenry, who watched in frustration

By Jack **Brezina** and then withdrew from community participation. The unravelling that occurred during the past four years was observed

with a morbid curiosity similar to that of a crowd watching an historic landmark burn to the ground. The destruction is overwhelmingly sad, but it is hard not to look on in fascination.

There are many clichés that spring to mind for the change brought about by the voters of Minden Hills on Oct. 27. It's hard not to pile them on like neatly stacked cords of wood. Suffice to say, the sense of relief that a new era is starting is palpable as it was on the night of the inauguration.

But, as sweet as that feeling was, there is a lot of work to be done. There is a pressing need to bridge divides, bring people back into the fold, change attitudes. In addition to the inaction of the past four years, there are ongoing problems and issues faced by this municipality that must be addressed. These require immediate attention, because they underpin the operation of the community. However, in addition to the nuts and bolts of the machine, there is a human side to living in a community, shared experiences that give a sense of being and place. While the seven members of council can nurture opportunities for that to happen, it will only flourish because citizens get involved and believe in their community.

Many of the citizens are looking forward to the change in direction, but they must all be more than spectators. They have to help make it happen. Let's put the past to rest and move forward where we are all happy to be here, I mean, really happy.



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HIGHLANDER HOLIDAY HOURS Please note The Highlander's office will be closed from 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 24 until 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 2. **Publication Schedule** First Issue of 2015 - Thursday, January 8, 2015 (ad deadline January 5 at 5 p.m.) Please note there will not be a paper for the week of January 1. Merry Christmas & Happy **New Year!**

Letters to the editor

Christmas greetings from 1887

Dear editor,

Here is a letter written by my great aunt in 1887 of her early Christmas memories. We found this letter last year in an old diary. I think it is magical and just wanted to share it.

Our thoughts about the coming Christmas began the day after one was past, in a feeling that there was a large and interminable time to wait. This went away again in about six weeks and Christmas was seldom thought of until October – except when some of our toys brought it to remembrance. But from that time on interest gradually increased until there was nothing but Santa Claus thought of during December.

Our wishes of what he should bring changed twenty times a day. At one time it was a book, at another we wished he would bring us a little world flat (not round) with men driving little horses and wives as small and all things corresponding.

The day before Christmas was a busy day and we had to keep in the parlour, dressing in any way we chose; so long as we kept out of the kitchen. During this time we were sure that Santa Claus and his wife were busy packing their sleighs with presents. "How do they get room for every wish," one would ask. Oh his reindeer just fly like the wind and he can go home for things when his sleigh is empty, then it is not night at the same time all over the world. We had about the same idea about him, which millions had of Santa. By night he fled, and at midnight returned from compassing the earth; cautious of the day.

All this time we did not know how busy Mrs. Santa Claus was in reality making what she knew would please us.

When night came we disliked going to bed, but that had to be gone through a little earlier than usual best Santa Claus would not bring

us anything. Sleep was a long time in coming and we frequently resolved to lie awake and listen. It would not do to look at him; for then our stockings might be filled with coal or rotten apples. We heard of people who were too wise having that done to them.

We fidgeted and got the blankets rumpled. Then one would go for a drink at such a time and frequently caused great commotion amongst the members of the senior family which did not go so early to bed.

The morning came at last and we all sallied out, a little frightened and awe struck. But what was our delight at beholding our stockings where we hung them the night before, with strange welled knots about them and things that would not go in hanging on the outside.

There were gingerbread houses, and cows dangling by their necks and legs with carrots

These were kept only a few days before being eaten, which was done gradually just so they happened to get dismembered. Sometimes a doll filled a whole stocking and dangled out of it with arms hanging over the

We took out one article after another and away down in the toe were raisins and sweets stored. You could say everyone knew his or her own things after taking them out no matter how they got mixed.

Then came the delight of handing to father and mother; taking them into their bedroom and depositing them on the bed. They were perfectly astonished; indeed we never saw them so astonished and delighted at anything as they were at seeing our presents. Once there was a slip in my stocking that Mrs. Santa Claus had not had time to finish. The needle was in it the very way she left it.

Auntie and Uncle came over for dinner; they and everyone else who came in were shown

Photo of the week



Photo by Carol Stamp

Emma Stamp, left, and Ella Boutin worked hard to earn money to purchase these toys for children in need in their community.

what we got.

When evening came we all went to Uncle George's. What a state of fear we were in for fear Olsen the dog would bite us. Before the door opened to let us in frequently his voice was heard on the inside and when the door was opened he rushed out while we made the same haste to get in. Once in, the fear of him was gone. I was glad to take a low stool by the fire or stand on the stair and be a little out of the bustle; or sit in the parlour and hear Auntie Mary's clocks tic, tic in her room.

There was a closet beside the chimney in the sitting room. If the door chanced to be open, I had no peace. I never liked to sit near it even when it was shut. To me it was an endless labyrinth from which ghosts or witches might issue at any time and take me. The**Outsider**

Then there was hearing the singing and father playing the violin, seeing the dancing oh! Everything was like a dream.

Then coming home past the mill in the midnight, the sleepy ones were carried and the others following the best way they could.

There was the drowsy sound of the water as it fell over the waste gate; it seemed to make a different sound on Christmas Night.

Then coming into the dark house, lighting the lamps and going to bed – Christmas was

Jean L. Bruce, 1887

Connie Reevely Haliburton

Cheese or antibodies, anyone?

It being party season I have made it my journalistic duty to attend and 'properly enjoy' myself at a number of Christmas soirees. Four parties in three nights, to be exact. And, while fun was had at every one, the truth is that I'm feeling a little worse for wear. That said, the parties themselves are far more interesting than my current sorry state and so, without further ado, I shall tell of shindigs, shenanigans and snacks a little out of the ordinary.

The last of these parties, and as such the most clear in my mind, was an intimate gathering in the home of some of my oldest Haliburtonian friends – not oldest, oldest – but the folks I've known the longest, just so that no one takes offense! It was a fondue party. How achingly cool, in a retro kind of way is that? Glasses were clinked, toasts made, laughs abounded, and all the while we dipped small cubes of this and that into a large vat of

Whoever came up with the idea of fondue must have been very stoned; that, or desperate to use up leftovers when all else in the fridge was a big block of Cracker Barrel. The premise of drowning shrimps, bread, and veggies in gallons of cheesy gloop is definitely not something out of a nutritionist's bible, but that's what makes it so good. The

only drawback: not being able to wait until the cheese has cooled sufficiently to eat comfortably. Scolding the roof of your mouth at the start of a fondue party is painful and amateurish in every way, believe me I've been

The night previous saw me at two parties: my own work do, a planned and much looked forward to event, and an unscheduled stop off at another altogether more down to earth gig. Starting at the beginning of the evening, we met at my boss's house and had a few snifters before piling into a taxi and heading to the restaurant known as Rhubarb. The journey reminded me of a fifth grade school trip, such was the banter and scuffling in the back seat. At one point I thought I might have to put young Jordan over my knee and thrash him I revised that thought though as I noted he is both twice my height and weight, and at that moment he had my head jammed into the rear of the seat in front of us. Happy times!

Things calmed somewhat in the restaurant until Pat showed up with his girlfriend in tow, her low cut dress bringing sparkles to many an eye. The wine and whiskey flowed, wonderful meals were enjoyed and the chef joined us for a joke and a cheese plate. Pat had a slippery nipple – a cocktail, not a malfunction of his girlfriend's dress – and we wound up the event with a glass of port, all very classy.

But then things took an unexpected turn. The ladies bundled into the first cab, the gents the second. The ladies went home, the gents made the aforementioned unscheduled stop. A house, mid-village, all quiet on the street front. But in the basement, a hoard of blokes in various states of shall we say disrepair, obviously struck down by a malady that had something to do with large quantities of beer and spirits. In we bowled to a frenzy of whoops, back slaps and general pandemonium. We shouted our conversations over music, TV and other random, raucous rants and ravings. Staggering bodies, toothy grins and grinding teeth said it all. And, in the midst, a cheese plate and a veggies plate, totally untouched, a long-forgotten hint that the host did indeed have the best intentions at the start of the night.

And then 'Taxi!', I was whisked away from newfound buddies, none of whom will remember my name, nor me theirs next week, but we may do a double take and think, 'were you that bloke from the party...?'

Finally, there was the first party of my weekend; my lovely wife's work party. A fancy affair, held in the rather swish home of the company owner. The bar was stocked with organic wines and wheat-free beverages. The guests were attired in their finest long dresses, high heels and the ladies looked quite

By Will Jones

good, too. There were employees, friends, family and just the right amount of mysterious strangers to make you wonder, 'am I really meant to be here at all'. And then there was the food. A chef borrowed from Maine – ves the American Maine – who worked wonders with such culinary odysseys as miso, rutabaga and colostrum.

Yes colostrum – the milky stuff that babies gorge in their first few days after birth. The super shake that contains all the antibodies and proteins to make them grow big and healthy. And here I was eating a colostrum pancake. It was nice, until I found out what colostrum was. Then it was, well, intriguing to say the least but not good enough for another try!

So now I have a sore head. Some would say it was the beer, others might blame the procession of late nights but me, I blame the colostrum pancake and all that damn super goodness that's coursing through my veins.

Merry Christmas everyone. Eat, drink and be merry but watch out for milky fluids packed with antibodies. They'll do you in!



Highlander opinion

Eye on the street: What is one thing you'd like to see in the new year?



Amanda Dykstra

Minden

Families spending more time together and getting to know each other better.



Brian Campbell

Moose Lake

The spirit of Christmas to last throughout the year.



Carla Landsperger

Carnarvon

Good health for everybody.



Cathy McLean

Moore Falls

I would like to see a major change come to our federal government. The environment is the big one.



Charlotte Harding

Haliburton

I would like to see more jobs and activities for the young people in the county. We need to have more to keep the young people here in Haliburton.



Debbie O'Reilly

Haliburton

I would like to see all my family because it has been 27 years since we have spent a Christmas together. And to have world peace.



Gord Hoenow

Halls Lake

To see our new council get along and progress for the best interest of Minden and the county.



Guenter Horst

Minden

That they fix Bobcaygeon Road from the fairgrounds to Scotch Line. They have so many potholes that they are just repairing the repairs on them and it is a waste of money.



Jason Cochrane

Minden

I am very happy to see the fire and ambulance building and hope that it is all in the best interest of Minden.



Jean Horne

Haliburton

I would love to see more peace around the world.



John Carr

Minden

A better economy up this way. More people supporting the local stores. Better weather and more people coming up to enjoy our hospitality.



Lynda Campbell

Soyers Lake

Peace and harmony within the family and throughout the world.



Michelle Allore

Minden

To see our family and be able to live well and be happy and healthy.



Peg Truman

Haliburton

Peace and harmony for the world.



Rainer Hentschel

Haliburton

Peace in the world. Much more tolerance among all the religions.



Roger Yearwood

Haliburton

The economy to get better and the price of gas to stay down as it helps tourism. Oh, and that I win the lottery!



Roland Letourneau

Haliburton

I'd like to see some progress and get the traffic off the main street, especially in the summer.



Ross Warburton

Minden

My wife healthy and doing better. We are married 51 years and she is in for a long haul.



Steve Fortais

Ox Narrows

Warm weather and lots of love and kindness all around for everybody.



Victoria Harrison

Ox Narrows

Health and happiness for all.

Highlander news

Canada Post plan won't impact rural delivery

By Lisa Harrison Contributing Writer

Some initial concerns over changes to Canada Post mail delivery services have been allayed with confirmation that delivery to rural mailboxes will not be affected.

In December 2013 the Canada Post Corporation (CPC) released its five-point action plan to "meet Canadians' emerging and future needs, while reducing costs substantially."

The CPC reported the changes would in part address a sharp decline in lettermail volumes in recent years and an increase in parcel volumes, both attributed to new technologies (email and e-commerce).

"Canadians ordered an estimated \$9 billion worth of goods for delivery from businesses to consumers in 2012, a figure that is forecast to climb to \$16.9 billion by 2017," the CPC reported in its 2014 corporate plan.

The five-point action plan includes conversion to community mailbox delivery by 2019 for the one-third of Canadians who still receive mail delivery to their door, introducing a tiered stamp pricing model with higher rates in March 2014, opening more franchises (CPC outlets in retail locations), streamlining operations, and continuing to bring the cost of labour in line with that of CPC competitors "through attrition and collective bargaining over time."

It was the original CMB delivery change announcement that caused much of the concern locally, given the county's high population of seniors, until it became apparent delivery to rural mailboxes will not be affected, as confirmed by the Canada Post website.

Canada Post also confirmed that seniors' residences, apartments or condos where mail is delivered to the lobby will not be affected by the changes.

Currently the county has 11 Canada Post outlets, including seven corporate and four dealer (franchise) sites, according to CPC spokesperson John Caines, reached via email. Caines reported Canada Post has no plans to close any of these outlets, nor to open any new franchise sites.

Regarding mail delivery, Caines confirmed that "nothing will change for people that pick up their mail at a postal outlet."

However, pick-up was affected for some outlets, with Saturday closures having taking effect in West Guilford in September 2013 and in Wilberforce and Cardiff in March 2014.

Asked if any other outlets will be considered for Saturday closings, Caines replied that Canada Post reviews its retail network on a regular basis "to ensure efficiency of operation."

"Any change in hours reflects the traffic pattern of our customers."

There are 53 community mailboxes (CMBs) in the county. Caines reported that no new locations have been announced, but confirmed that at the end of the five years all mail service to the door will be converted to CMBs.

"We know that the changes we are making pose challenges for some Canadians, and we are developing alternative approaches for those with significant challenges," advises the Q&A Forum on the Canada Post website. Those



Photo by Justin Tiffin

The Haliburton post office on Maple Ave. who have concerns about their ability to access a community mailbox are invited to contact Canada Post directly at 1-844-454-3009.

Additional information is available in the Q&A Forum at http://feedback.canadapost.ca/questions.

Public 'green space' to replace Gelert Hall

By Mark Arike Staff writer

Stall writer

The problem-ridden Gelert Hall will be demolished and its property designated as a municipal green space.

Minden Hills council gave staff the go-ahead to issue a tender for the demolition of the aging building and the former Snowdon roads.

Before reaching the decision, councillor Jean Neville inquired as to whether the roads shed could be spared due to its historical significance.

"It's kind of a historic, old-looking building sitting there," said Neville, who sits on the Gelert Hall advisory board. "That hall was a school."

Ivan Ingram, environmental and property operations manager, told Neville that the building "is in pretty rough shape" and

doesn't have any insulation.

The hall was shut down in March of 2012 because of bat guano and mould.

According to Ingram's report, staff researched the possibility of selling the building, but that would require an environmental assessment "to determine the scale of present risks and hazards." Costs would include legal, property appraisal and real estate fees.

Cambium Environmental Services provided staff with a cost estimate of a two-phase process, with the second portion of the process expected to cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000. By demolishing the buildings, an environmental assessment would not be required.

This past summer, the previous council declared the hall and shed surplus properties, and approved their sale to the Gelert Hall committee for \$1. The committee declined

the offer.

The estimated cost of the demolition is \$35,000 and will include the removal of a holding tank, decommissioning of a dug well and any required landscaping.

While there is approximately \$133,000 in the Gelert Hall and property reserves, Neville recommended that those funds not be used for the project.

The project will be paid for through the general property reserve.

At the end of the council meeting, local resident Pamela Marsales came forward and asked that council reconsider the demolition of the shed

"I would like to ask council that they work with staff and community organizations that have vested interests in this, and there a few of them," said Marsales, listing off the Friends of the Rail Trail and Gelert Hall committee.





INFORMATION PAGE

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden ON K0M 2K0 Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 Fax: 705-286-4917 · www.mindenhills.ca



In case of emergency please Dial 9-1-1. For all other municipal emergencies please call 1-866-856-3247.

Meetings and Events

Dec 31

5:30 - 8:30 pm, Family Fun New Year's Eve SG Nesbitt Arena, Skating, tobogganing, horse drawn wagon rides and more!

TO 2015 Pan Am Games

Watch History Unfold, Be Part of the Pan Am Games Action - Pan Am Games Tickets On Sale Now

Tickets start at just \$20, with 75 per cent of tickets priced \$45 and under. Half-price tickets for persons under 16 years of age, or 65 and over. Tickets can be purchased online at TORONTO2015.org/tickets or at 1.855.726.2015 and internationally at 1.949.333.4824.

Sports fans can now gift-wrap the Games. Merchandise such as PACHI plush toys, jackets, T-shirts, hats and much more are available. Visit the TORONTO 2015 kiosk at the Toronto Eaton Centre and Markville Shopping Centre from December 1 to December 29. Order online by December 14 for delivery by December 24 at shop.TORONTO2015.org

Municipal Holiday Hours

Administration Office Wed Dec 24 - 8:30 to 11:30 Thurs Dec 25 Closed Fri December 26 Closed Mon Dec 29 & Tues Dec 30 - Regular hours resume Wed Dec 31 (New Year's Eve) - 8:30 to 11:30 Thurs Jan 1 Closed Fri Jan 2 Closed Mon Jan 5 - Regular hours resume

Community Service Administration Hours Please call 705-286-1936

> Landfill Sites Thurs Dec 25 - All sites are closed Thurs Jan 1 - All sites are closed

> > Cultural Centre

Sun Dec 21 to Sunday, Dec 28 Closed Mon Dec 29 - 11:00 to 4:00 Tues Dec 30 - 11:00 to 4:00 Wed Dec 31 to Sun Jan 5 Closed Mon Jan 5 - Regular hours resume

FREE Holiday Public Skating

at the S.G Nesbitt Memorial Arena, 55 Parkside StreetDecember 23 - 12:00 - 3:00

> December 24 - 9:00 - 11:00 December 27 - 12:00 - 3:00 December 28 - 12:00 - 2:00 December 29 - 1:00 - 3:00 December 30 - 12:00 - 3:00 December 31 - 12:00 - 2:00 & 5:30 - 8:30 January 2 - 12:00 - 3:00 January 4 - 12:00 - 2:00

Thank you to our Sponsors: Karen Nimigon at Century 21 for sponsoring 2 hours of ice time & Tim Hortons for 5 hours of ice time. Call 705-286-1936 for ice rentals & complete Public Skate Directory



Agnes Jamieson Gallery ~ Minden Hills Museum Pioneer Village & Nature's Place 705-286-3763 • 176 Bobcaygeon Road www.mindenculturalcentre.com Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com

Photography Juried Exhibition
January 7 to February 7, 2015
A selection of photos juried by curator Laurie Carmount. A number of photographers from across Ontario with work that answers themes of: water, black and white, creative digital manipulation, dawn/dusk, human altered landscape, abstract realism and wildlife.

> NATURE'S PLACE The Dead Zones: Lake Ecology Dec 12-14 to Mar 20-15

Dead Zones in bodies of water are developing in the lakes and oceans throughout the world. How are they being created? What will happen if we ignore the problem? This exhibition explores the dangers, vulnerabilities and threats of the Dead Zone phenomena.

NEW Holiday Family Days Dec 29 and 30, from 11 am to 3 pm

When the kids are out of school these two days may be a time when you would like to do a day of family activities outside the home. Join us in the Common Room for some family movies, crafts and other fun activities for the whole family.

Winter Notices

Sand - is available at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena parking Lot. Individual use only, No Commercial users please.

Parking - overnight parking is prohibited on municipal roadways from Nov 1 to Apr 30. Vehicles may be ticketed/ towed at owners expense.

Riverwalk/Boardwalk Use – Logger's Crossing bridge & boardwalk are cleared of snow but are not sanded or salted. The Riverwalk does not receive winter maintenance.

Residents are advised to please "Use Caution"



SG Nesbitt Arena

5:30-8:30: Skating, Tobogganing 6:00-8:00: Hot Chocolate and Horse drawn wagon rides.

Warm up by the fire and roast a marshmallow or two!

All for FREE!

Please note: Skates and toboggans not provided

Season's Greetings

Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please visit www.mindenhills.ca for holiday safety tips from the Fire Chief

Employment Opportunity

Municpal Clerk

The Township of Minden Hills is a vibrant community of 5,500 residents, both permanent and seasonal, located in heart of Haliburton County. We are currently seeking a Municipal Clerk who is a highly motivated and energetic individual to join our senior management team.

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Municipal Clerk will direct the Legislative and Administration functions, overseeing all of the Clerk's administrative functions and ensuring that the statutory requirements of the role are met. The Clerk will be responsible for providing proactive leadership, long term planning, establishment of policies and standards and be committed to delivering high quality services to our residents.

Minimum Qualifications: You have a proven track record of leadership success. Demonstrated management, organizational and leadership abilities, highly developed communication skills, knowledge of public needs as well as working knowledge of Provincial legislation and policies that affect Municipal Administration. Familiarity with economic development will be an asset.

The candidate shall have excellent supervisory skills and should be competent in the interpretation and application of employment policies, regulations, acts, guidelines and the Collective Agreement.

The ideal applicant will possess a post-secondary education or equivalent work related experience in Municipal or Public Administration or a related field plus a minimum of five (5) years' experience in progressively responsible related positions. AMCTO Certified Municipal Officer (CMO) designation or be working towards their CMO designation. Salary will commensurate with experience and skills.

Detailed Position Descriptions can be obtained from the Clerk's Office, 2nd floor or by contacting the Administrative Assistant at 705-286-1260 ext. 313 or at sprentice@ mindenhills.ca.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit a letter of application together with a detailed resume of education and experience by 12:00:00 noon, local time, Friday, January 23, 2015 to:

> Employment Opportunity – Municipal Clerk Clerk's Office, 2nd floor Township of Minden Hills 7 Milne St, PO Box 359 Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Attention: Lorrie Blanchard, CAO/Treasurer

Fax: 705-286-4917 - Email: sprentice@mindenhills.ca Website: www.mindenhills.ca

We thank all applicants for applying, but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information and supporting material is used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Highlander business



Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE WELCOME NEW **MEMBERS!** ulberry on Moore Lake Mulberry Shore Inn Moore Lake, Minden ON (705) 454-3854 Happy Holidays! The board and staff of the Chamber of Commerce wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Our office will be closed for the holidays on Wednesday, December 24 and will re-open on Friday, January 2, 2015. **UPCOMING EVENTS** January 15: Chamber Breakfast (Topic: Labour Market Gateway) January 28, 2015: Business & Community Achievement Awards Nomination Deadline 195 Highland St, Box 670 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-4700 haliburtonchamber.com (CString UNI) Haliburton Highlands

CHAMBER of COMMERCE





Highlander arts

Haliburton County's **Hot Reads**

As we await our first shipment of books for 2015, here is a countdown of the top circulating items of 2014. Here are your top reads!

ILENT

CHARLOTTE GRAY

HCPL's TOP FICTION

- 2. Flee, Fly, Flown by Janet Hepburn
- 1. The Silent Wife by A.S.A. Harrison

HCPL's TOP NON-FICTION

- 2. The Inconvenient *Indian* by Thomas King
- 1. The Massey Murder by Charlotte Gray

JUNIOR TITLES



AUDIO and VIDEO at HCPL

2. Fast & Furious (DVD)

1. Gravity (DVD)

Library News

December is Food 4 Fines month! If you have fines for overdue items, drop off a non-perishable food item or SuperbucksTM and have them waived. All donations go to Haliburton County Food Banks and HHHS Community Support Services.

All gifts big and small

Stan peered through the windshield at the swirling snow. He was crawling along the highway, mindful of slippery spots that could catch him unprepared. Visibility was terrible. Approaching headlights creeped toward him on the opposite side of the road, equally cautious.

Suddenly a deer leapt into sight in front of him and he braked with care. Then the doe lost her footing as her hind legs slid out from under her. Stan held his breath, but the animal managed to recover and darted into the bush.

"Watch out, there's never just one deer," came the urgent call from the backseat. After living in the country for thirty years, this was not new information for Stan but he bit his tongue and kept silent. The waves of white continued to angle towards him as he proceeded. No more

He and his friend Angela were returning from a Christmas concert out of town. The beauty of the music and fine meal that had preceded it were but a distant memory now. Instead Stan felt as though he was in survival mode as the cold and dark lurked beyond a white curtain through which he now drove.

The concert was just one of many seasonal gatherings Stan and his friends attended. Performances and social gettogethers were the norm this time of year and Stan was thankful these were pocketbook friendly affairs. He knew if he lived in a large urban area he probably would not be able to afford ballet and concerts. Yes, he thought as his driveway came into view, residing in this small corner of

Ontario was indeed a gift.

He had dropped Angela at her house earlier. They would no doubt meet up later in the week at a solstice pot luck. Stan always ate too much at the pot lucks. He just couldn't help himself. There were so many dishes to try and they all looked irresistible. He was no great cook but managed to make devilled eggs for these events. Everyone liked them. Angela said that was because they reminded older folks of their childhood. Many things this time of year reminded people of their childhood, both the good and the not-so-good. It was a season of memories.

The news was reporting on the Syrian refugee crisis when he turned on the kitchen radio. Looking around at his own cozy space and full pantry, he marvelled at his luck at being born where he was and not in another part of the world. "I might have been forced to eat you if I was starving!" he told Herman the dog, now gazing up at Stan expectantly. Herman was always hopeful when Stan entered the kitchen. "There are people a lot hungrier than you are Herman," he told the tail-wagger.

It had been a tough year for Stan. Business was down, his roof needed work and money was tight. He had had a medical scare in the summer but that had turned out to be nothing so he was glad for that. In fact his health was pretty darn good once he set aside the limitations brought on by age. But he now regularly read the obituaries and knew one day his own name would appear there. He

shivered and threw another log on the fire. Herman had left the kitchen

Down our Road

By Sharon Lynch

empty-mouthed and returned to his spot by the stove. "You're a lucky dog Herman," Stan told him, giving the old head a pat.

Christmas dinner was to be at his son's house and besides devilled eggs, Stan was bringing mashed potatoes, or as his granddaughter called them, 'Smashed' potatoes. He would happily overeat but then they would all go for a long, leisurely walk through the village. The full stomachs would ease a little and their hearts would expand with pleasure as they enjoyed the Christmas lights and snow-laced landscape. Last year five deer had watched them pass by a stand of cedars and a flock of wild turkeys, black against the white, had waddled then took off over the neighbour's front yard Santa.

Now the radio was reporting on the plight of the children in those refugee camps. Stan turned it off and then immediately felt guilty. He couldn't bear to hear more. As he finished wrapping gifts for his granddaughter, he thought of what a gift his own life was. A warm fire, a full stomach and the joy of family and friends gift- wrapped in nature's beauty. He was indeed a lucky man.









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Highlander life

New centre ready to load up on food

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

It's been two years in the making, but Minden Food Bank's new food centre is officially open and operational.

Minden Food Bank manager Joanne Barnes said they were up and running on Nov. 1 at their new location at 24 Newcastle Street, but their official grand opening wasn't until Dec. 20.

"It feels wonderful," she said. "For me, it's so that we can better serve our members. It's a friendly lobby now, where people come in, it's comfortable and welcoming. We're not giving a hand out, we're giving a hand up."

The new food centre has drastically increased the space available to the food bank. They have a loading area where they can accept skids of food, and will have a walk-in freezer and fridge in which to store it. There's also a sorting table to separate portions of bulk food items, like flour and rice.

"We're often offered skids of food,"
Barnes said. "Before, if we took a skid,
that overwhelms the facility. Now we can
accommodate skids. We can accept bulk food
donations and not have spoilage."

The space also allows them to purchase bulk food items.

"It will also allow us to share things with the other food banks," she said. "No one has ever had the storage facility, and now we do. If we get a skid of frozen vegetables, we can share that with other food banks as well."



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin learns about the community kitchen from lead cook Marilynne Lesperance.

More than just giving out food, the food bank volunteers will also educate families on how to properly use it.

"We're teaching people how to use the foods they get at the food bank to provide nutritious meals for their families."

Previously, the food bank provided the Minden Community Kitchen with the raw food to use in preparing frozen meals, which would then be given away to the community. Now, said Marilynne Lesperance, lead cook at the Minden Community Kitchen, families will learn to properly cook for themselves.

Some people are afraid to take certain items from the food bank, like black beans and whole wheat pasta, because they don't know how to prepare it.

"It's exciting," she said. "We intend to teach, not just cook. We'll teach people who won't take certain items, how to cook it."

Barnes said the doors of the new food centre are open for people to come and check out the new location.

"We welcome everyone to come in and see the place," she said. "Thank you to this community. It's such a charitable and giving community, which makes it easier for us to help those that are in need."

MINDEN HILLS WARD 2

Pam Sayne Councillor Ward 2



Useful Minden Hills websites:

www.mindenhills.ca
Go to the lower right hand comer
and subscribe to events and
activities.

www.haliburtonlibrary.ca
Access the database for
downloadable books, audio
books & e books. Your library
account can be managed online



Season's Greetings as Minden Hills becomes a beautiful winter wonderland

Wishing you and your family Joyous Holidays and a Happy New Year. On December 1, 2014 your new Municipal Council was sworn into office.

Your support and confidence entrusted to us is not lightly taken. I will endeavor to live up to the community's, as well as my own, expectations.

There were three Council Meetings this month including the inaugural meeting, orientation and regular business meeting. You are encouraged to review Agendas and Minutes online at the Municipal website as they are approved by Council then published. We will be looking at the possibility of live streaming Council meetings as well.

A couple of highlights from meetings include Reeve Devolin announcing the Councillor's portfolios as required by the Province; a task force of Jeanne Anthon, Cheryl Murdoch and Pam Sayne to review all Municipal Policies; Kurt Browning and Stars on Ice asking that Minden Hills arena be their rehearsal home. Over the holidays we will each review the proposed budget including the increased OPP costs.

In the New Year your Council will review the community advisory committees and structures. Reeve Devolin and other Councilors (including myself) will examine making ourselves available to you on a regular basis at our Municipal Office. The Fire Hall and Arena issues will be addressed. We are also looking forward to our community hosting the 2015 Pan Am Games, Canoe/Kayak competition at the Minden Wild Water Preserve in July.



Your Council left to right and committee assignments: Councillor Ward 2 – Pam Sayne Planning & Development

Councillor Ward 3 – Jean Neville Parks and Recreation

Deputy Reeve – Cheryl Murdoch Finance and General Government

Reeve – Brent Devolin Ex-officio member of all committees

Member at Large – Ron Nesbitt Protective Services

Councillor Ward 1 – Lisa Schell Environmental and Roads

Councillor Ward 1 – Jeanne Anthon Culture, Youth and Community

Email: psayne@mindenhills.ca | Municipality phone 705-286-1260 |Home Phone 705-454-9804

Highlander life

A safe space to relax and meet new friends

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

Next time you're in town and just need to take a load off your feet, now you have a place to go.

The R.E.C. Room opened on Dec. 19, and manager Nick Adams hopes the community will use the space visit, shoot some pool, and build relationships. Standing for relaxation, entertainment and community, Adams said the R.E.C. Room is a drop-in centre for people to come right in off the street.

"They can come in here and treat it like their own space," he said. "It a space to relax, shoot a game of pool, throw a game of darts, and hang out with other people."

Adams said it's a safe space staffed by volunteers, with three simple rules: respect the building, each other, and yourself.

"There's no alcohol in here, no drugs," he said. "It's a safe place for people to go and be around other people."

The biggest problem in the community, especially for single men between the ages of 40 and 70, is loneliness, Adams said.

"When they don't work or are laid off, they sit in their apartment looking for something to do. This offers that place for people to come."

The room, located at 50 York Street in Haliburton, will be open Mondays to Thursdays starting in the new year, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Volunteers are stepping up saying we'd like to come here and do a Hockey Night in



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Manager Nick Adams shoots pool with Gary Collins at the new R.E.C. Room in Haliburton, located at 50 York St.

Canada on Saturday night," he said. "So two volunteers would come in, open the centre and use what's here."

People can watch the games, use the pool table or dart board, all free of charge.

"We ask that people like use on Facebook so we can use that as a resource to communicate with them." Adams said.

The R.E.C. Room is funded by the Seeds of Hope charity, a Christian organization based

out of a Bancroft. However, Adams said the space will not be used as a Christian outreach.

"[The Seeds for Hope] mandate is community helping community," he said. "We're not a Christian outreach ... it's totally relationship driven. We're about befriending the community."

A cantina will be set up, selling pop and chips, and some community groups have expressed interest in using the kitchenette for

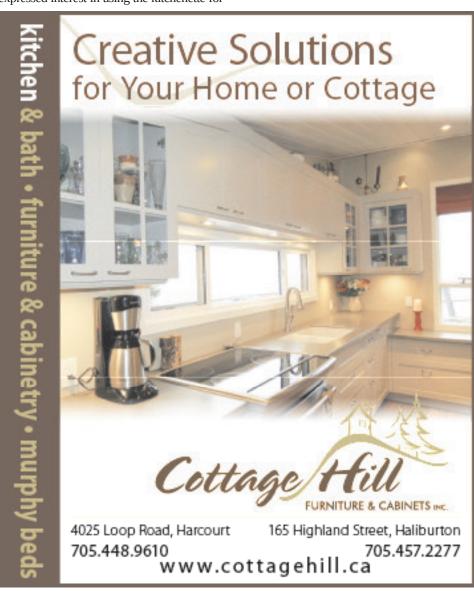
ated at 50 York St.

a monthly soup or chili day.

"We're looking to make partnerships with any other community groups where this will be beneficial with the people they work with," Adams said.

For more information, contact Adams at 705-854-1072 or visit their Facebook page, The Rec Room at 50 York.





Highlander life



Photo submitted by Chris Baughman

Captains Wayne Galloway (left), Barry Dickinson and Dennis Mackey received the Exemplary Service Award from the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General for 20 years of service to the Highlands East Fire Department.

Firefighters recognized for service

By Matthew Desrosiers Editor

Three captains of the Highlands East Fire Department were awarded Exemplary Service Medals from the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

On Dec. 20, members of the department's Stations 1 and 6 participated in the ceremony during their annual Christmas dinner. Captains Wayne Galloway, Barry Dickinson and Dennis Mackey received medals for their 20 years of service to the department.

"The tones from our pagers went off, interrupting the dinner," said Acting Fire their life Chief Chris Baughman, who was officiating the ceremony. "It served to underline the

important role that these men and women have taken upon themselves, not to mention the sacrifices of their families who deal with all the cold meals, missed dates and changed plans."

Baughman said the emergency call interrupted the dinner, and the firefighters gathered there nodded to their families and quickly left to handle the medical situation.

Baughman remained behind at the scene and was unable to return to the ceremony.

"I would like to thank all of our volunteers and their families for all they sacrifice," he said. "When someone calls 9-1-1 at quite possibly one of the worst moments of their life, it's these men and women who answer."



Photo by Mark Arike

HHHSF executive director Dale Walker, left, joins grant recipient Carol Patrick at TD Canada Trust in Minden.

TD manager wins grant for health services

By Mark Arike Staff writer

The volunteer efforts of Carol Patrick have been recognized by TD Canada Trust.

As treasurer and board member for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF), Patrick applied for a \$500 grant through a program run by her employer that supports the work of employees who volunteer more than 40 hours in one year. Patrick is branch manager of TD Canada Trust in Minden.

"It's been really interesting," said Patrick of her time with the foundation. "It's something that you know that helps the community, which is a big deal." Patrick has been volunteering with the foundation for over a year.

HHHSF executive director Dale Walker was thrilled to receive the news.

"It's great," said Walker. "It's found money to us."

The money will go into a general fund and be used to purchase priority equipment, she said.

Since the nationwide Volunteer Grant Program was implemented, nearly \$400,000 has been donated to 580 organizations across Canada and \$56,000 to 147 organizations in

Anyone interested in volunteering for the HHHSF should contact Walker at 705-457-1580 or 705-286-1580.



HighlanderTV

This week, watch the entire Christmas Shindig and the Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade at HIGHLANDERONLINE.CA

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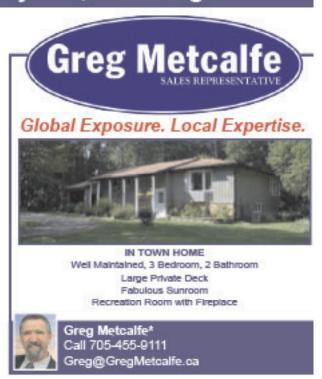
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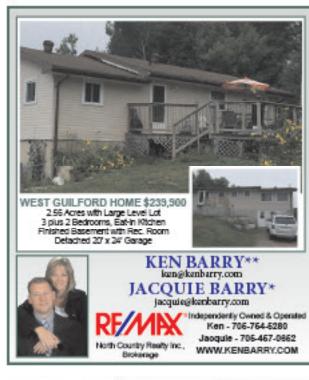




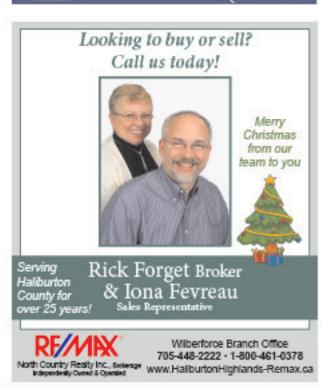














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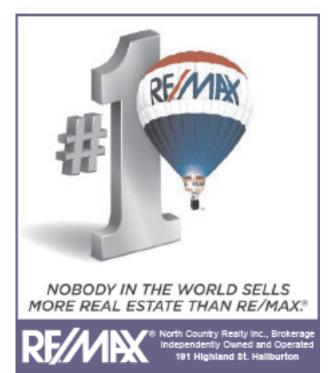
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paved drive, dry & usable basement which houses utility, laundry, workshop, wood storage. Some upgrades since 2011 include: roof re-shingled & turbines, hwt, windows/doors, garage & main door, of tank, carpeting in breakfast room, cork files in entrance & kitchen, foliets, front porch. A Must See For Selective Buyers! \$219,900

DEBRA LAMBE* 705-457-1011



Highlander sports





Photos by Mark Arike

Senior Hawks face stars of the past

In front of family, friends and their peers, the Red Hawks senior boys' basketball team took on some familiar faces in an alumni game at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Dec. 18. The Hawks defeated the alumni team 33-27. The team's next regular season game is on Jan. 7 in Peterborough.

Pictured left: Senior boys' basketball player Cody Bain steps to the free throw line. Above: Jalen Campbell forces his way through a group of alumni players to take it to the



As another year comes to a close we take stock of our blessings and offer thanks to our readers and advertisers.

Thanks to your support in 2014 The Highlander:

Provided financial support to outstanding young achievers in our community:







Izac Reid (Snowmobiler)

Provided financial and advertising support to local non-profits and charities, including: Volunteer Dental Outreach, HHHSF, Highlands Opera Studio, Point in Time, Haliburton Land Trust, Community Care, Haliburton Folk Society, Hockey Night in Haliburton, Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary, the Legions of Haliburton County, HHHSF, Haliburton Land Trust, Katie's Run, Youth Unlimited, Colourfest, Minden Hills Cultural Centre, SIRCH, Haliburton International Film Festival.

In partnership with Sticks & Stones, provided the county with unprecedented election coverage: Thousands of people watched the all-candidates meetings, livestreamed for the first time. HighlanderTV offers residents and cottagers direct access to local events, from high school sports to live performances. Sticks & Stones uses its income from The Highlander to support student training, offering local youth the opportunity to explore exciting careers in film and television. One example is HawkTV at HHSS, student-run television soon available at HighlanderOnline.ca.

Thank you for supporting Haliburton County's only locally-owned paper. We are proud to be able to serve you in return.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year The Highlander & Highlander TV

Highlander sports





Photo by Paula Reid

Izac Reid takes to the air during his race at the Dayco Triple Crown event.

Izac Reid on top of the podium

By Matthew Desrosiers Editor

Minden teenage snowcross racer Izac Reid is off to a strong start to the season.

Reid, 15, was in Sault Ste. Marie on Dec. 13-14 at the Dayco Triple Crown National Snowcross Event. He competed in the Junior 1 (14-15 years old) and Junior 2 (14-17 year old) categories.

After a 10-hour drive up, Reid was happy for the warm weather. It was his first time

running his brand-new, 2014 Polaris 600R sled. It ran well, and he pushed it to the top of the podium. In his two Junior 1 qualifiers on the first day of the race, Reid finished in fifth and second. In Junior 2 the same day, he finished third and first, qualifying him for the finals in both categories the next day.

He would not disappoint.

Reid was fast, winning first place in all four of the day's races.

Although it's early in the season, Reid is currently sitting second overall in the CSRA Snowcross standings.

Next up for the young racer is Sled Fest, a non-points race in Wasaga Beach on January 3. The race is an opportunity for him to get more comfortable with his new sled. The team then moves on to Rouyn-Noranda, Que., for their next stop in the series.

There are nine races throughout the season. Seven races are in Ontario, and the other two in Quebec.

Visit HighlanderOnline.ca for video coverage of Reid's races at the Dayco Triple Crown National Snowcross Event, and more throughout the season.

Highland Storm

RM Carpentry Atom A Submitted by Jason Glecoff

On Dec. 20, the Highland Storm Atom As took on the Parry Sound Shamerocks.

That night, the Buffalo Sabres were hosting the Colorodo Avalanche and a large contingent of Haliburtonians had gone to watch and meet with Cody Hodgson and Matt Duchene. The Atom A Storm was down to eight skaters for this match. Last time these two met, the Shamrocks pulled their goalie and tied the game with seconds remaining.

Parry Sound took a 1-0 lead late in the first and had the Storm on the ropes 3-0 by the third. Captain Colin Glecoff took the rubber coast to coast, and broke the shutout with a pretty move to evade the goalie's poke check. There was hope. The Storm pulled their goalie for the extra attacker, but with such a short bench, they didn't have it left in them. Parry Sound added one more, in the empty net, to take this one 4-1.

Smolen Dentistry Bantam A Submitted by Suzanne Haedicke

The Storm travelled to Parry Sound on Friday and met with the Shamrocks. Although short three key players, they managed a 3-0 win and a well-earned shutout for Smolen. The first goal came half way through first by Ben Schmidt, assisted by Turner. With seconds left in the second period, Patterson-Smith manoeuvered in and capitalized on a wrap-around goal, making it 2-0. Next goal came on a two-man rush that landed on the stick of Lucas Haedicke and he snapped it in, assisted by Patterson-Smith. The Storm is back on the winning track and off for holidays. Great job to the entire Storm Bantam A team.

Monday afternoon, Dec. 15

Men: High average: Claude Cote – 205 High single: Claude Cote - 224 High single handicap: David Stokes – 262 High triple: Claude Cote – 591 High triple handicap: David Stokes – 693

Women: High average: Chris Cote – 178 High single: Norma Terro – 212 High single handicap: Norma Terro – 271 High triple: Chris Cote – 493 High triple handicap: Norma Terro – 662

Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 16

Men: High average: Ken Thompson – 213 High single: Claude Cote – 295 High single handicap: Claude Cote – 309 High triple: Claude Cote – 760 High triple handicap: Claude Cote – 802

Women: High average: Chris Cote – 179 High single: Lois Finlay – 173 High single handicap: Lois Finlay – 246 High triple: Chris Cote – 487 High triple handicap: Lois Finlay – 692

Wednesday Special Olympics, Dec. 10

Men: Brandon Bailey – 193 Jason Cochrane – 166 Russell Whetstone - 146

Women: Skylar Pratt – 167 Dawn Piercey – 143 Robin Fletcher - 141

Friday afternoon, Dec. 19

Men: High average: Ken Thompson – 207 High single: Bruno Campagnolo – 258

Fast Lane Bowling Scores High single handi: Bruno Campagnolo – 293 High triple: Claude Cote – 637

High triple handicap: Claude Cote – 759

Women: High average: Chris Cote – 172 High single: Chris Cote – 247 High single handicap: Chris Cote – 291 High triple: Chris Cote – 627 High triple handicap: Chris Cote – 759

Christmas Gift Guide \$\frac{1}{8}





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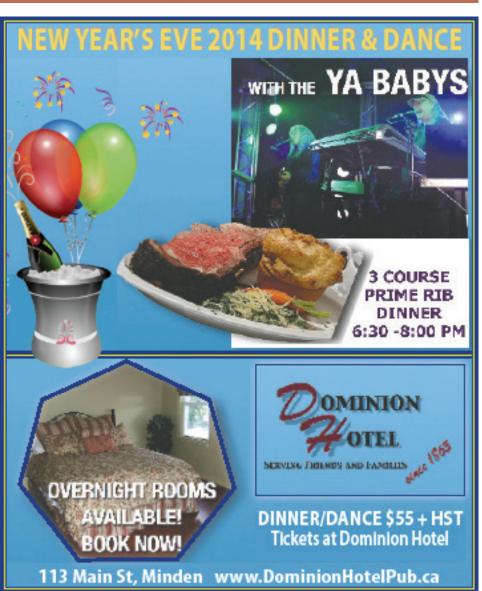
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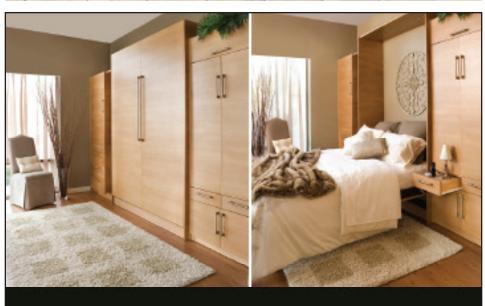




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2014 in review

Elections, fingers and fires: a look at 2014

The Highlander took a look back at 2014 and pulled some of the top stories from the year. From devastating fires to international triumphs, Haliburton County was an exciting place to be this year. Note the below list is not comprehensive, but does give a good idea of some of the big news stories from the last 12 months.

Rising costs

Local residents and politicians joined forces to take aim at a newly proposed OPP billing formula that was expected to take a \$5 million bite out of Haliburton County. A day of action known as OPP May Day was organized to lobby against the "flawed model," which was based on calls per household and service calls.

Shortly after receiving feedback from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi announced that the new model would be made up of a 60/40 split (base calls making up 60 per cent of the bill while 40 per cent would be calculated based on calls for service).

This change means that policing costs will increase by about \$3 million at the end of a five-year phase in period, effective Jan. 1.

"Councillors from all municipalities have expressed their disappointment in both the process and the outcome," stated County Warden Dave Burton in an Oct. 3 press

Residential, commercial and industrial properties are included in the formula.

The model affects 324 municipalities in the province, 207 of which will see their policing costs rise while 115 are expected to see a decrease.

Voters speak

Election years are always busy, and this one didn't disappoint. At the provincial level, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Laurie Scott held her seat against a strong push from Liberal candidate Rick Johnson.

Municipally, both Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East had minimal changeover in their councils. However, Dysart et al had significant changes. Although Murray Fearrey retained his seat against candidate Janis Parker, Andrea Roberts took over as deputy-reeve and long-time councillor Bill Davis lost in his bid for the Ward 1 seat.

But it was Minden Hills that stole the show. Reeve Barb Reid received a clear message from voters, as she lost handily to Brent Devolin. His task will be to rebuild the volunteer base in Minden, while finishing preparations for the PanAm Games, all under the shadow of increase OPP billings costs.

'The Minden Salute'

Already under pressure from the community for her previous three years as reeve of Minden Hills, Barb Reid finally cracked on Canada Day, and the result was one of the top stories of the year.

Probably one of the busiest and most public events in Minden Hills each year, Reid was in town for the festivities when Moore Falls





File photos

Left: A Dysart firefighter battles the blaze that destroyed the Great Haliburton Feed Co. Right: Matt Duchene shows off the key to Haliburton Village and his Olympic gold medal.

resident Richard Bradley spotted her. As he was preparing to take her photo, then-reeve Reid flipped the bird – a gesture Bradley caught on film.

Reid would later say she felt bullied by Bradley and that he was looking to take embarrassing pictures of her to post online. However, she did say she regretted the gesture and apologized after a council meeting later that month.

Although Reid's popularity was already trending downward, 'The Minden Salute' became a rallying point for her opponents in the election.

Coming together

Over a year-and-a-half since the process got underway, Community Care Haliburton County integrated with Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHs) on Oct. 1.

In 2012, the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) mandated that HHHS undergo a process of integration along with other hospitals in the region, including Ross Memorial, beginning in 2013. The purpose was to find efficiencies within the community, ways to save money and improve the services provided to the community.

Community Care Haliburton County was one organization that completely merged with HHHS to form the new Community Support Services Division of the hospital. Integration included services from the Victoria Order of Nurses (VON) and SIRCH Community Services as well.

Partnerships were also created between HHHS and Ross Memorial Hospital to streamline services provided to Haliburton County patients. HHHS President and CEO Varouj Eskedjian said the process of finding better ways to work both within the hospital and with Ross Memorial are ongoing.

For a complete video walk-through of the integration process and what it's meant for HHHS and county patients, visit highlanderonline.ca/highlandertv-hhhs-integration.

Golden Boy

Haliburton's Matt Duchene captured the imagination of kids across the county as he, along with the rest of Team Canada, travelled to Sochi and came back with Olympic Gold.

The Colorado Avalanche forward was celebrated locally with a parade and day named in his honour. On July 6, crowds gathered to watch as Duchene was paraded through Haliburton Village, the gold medal draped around his neck.

Wilberforce's Crown Jewel

Maybe it wasn't always the most popular project in town, but townsfolk were relieved when the Wilberforce Library finally opened its doors in June, over a year after construction began.

Built with partners Fleming College as part of the school's sustainable building program, the project ran into a few hiccups along the way – starting with the clearing of Block B that resulted in complaints from abutting property owners.

Steven Kauffeldt, then councillor of Ward 1, had said the project would be one all of Highlands East could be proud of, and certainly the community rallied behind the project. The Library Launchers managed to raise nearly \$40,000 to furnish the building, and the library received support from the Haliburton County Development Corporation as well as the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

At the opening, Reeve Dave Burton said the project was a challenge to complete, but that the community's support made it happen.

Garry Handlen

Minden Hills residents were shocked to learn that a man who lived in Minden was recently arrested and charged with the murders of two B.C. girls dating back to the 1970s.

On Nov. 28, 67-year-old Garry Taylor Handlen was arrested by police in Surrey, B.C. without incident and subsequently charged by the RCMP with first-degree murder in the deaths of 11-year-old Kathryn-Herbert and 12-year-old Monica Jack.

"The recent news regarding Garry Handlen's arrest was as much a surprise to me as it was to anyone," said Lyn Winans, a longtime friend of Handlen's.

National news media revealed that Handlen was a convicted rapist. On one of his convictions he was sentenced to 18 years, but on appeal that sentence was reduced to

l2 years.

Handlen made his first court appearance in Abbotsford on Dec. 8, at which time his next court date was set for March 2.

Armatec denied

Despite trying to gain the support of the community, Armatec Survivability's bid to develop a specialized military testing facility on a 2,300-acre property in the Harcourt area was denied by Dysart et al council last March.

The London-area company proposed to build the testing facility on a property south of Elephant Lake Road and east of Benoir Lake Road. It would have included an administration centre, two storage facilities, a primary research and testing area, and mobility test area for vehicles.

The company hosted a public information session at the Harcourt Community Centre in February, which saw several angry residents express opposition to the project.

Council followed the advice of the municipality's planning and development committee and denied necessary amendments to the zoning bylaw and Official Plan that would have enabled the company to proceed.

Armatec could have filed an appeal to the

Armatec could have filed an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board, but the company's president, Karl Pfister, chose not to.

Up in flames

In just two months, one Haliburton business and a home near West Guilford were destroyed by fire, resulting in the deaths of several animals.

On Nov. 13, nine cats, two rabbits and one rat succumbed to a blaze that reduced The Great Haliburton Feed Company to rubble. Eighteen firefighters responded but couldn't save the building. The cause is unknown and damages were estimated at \$400,000.

The business reopened at a temporary location in The Beer Store plaza on Dec. 5 thanks to the community's support.

On Dec. 10, Dunloe Farm Bed and Breakfast, located on Barry Line, went up in flames. Two passersby, Barry Miscio and Joel Voicey, rescued property owner Darlene McConnell from the burning home. The cause of the fire is not yet known.

Highlander events



Photo by Mark Arike

Carl Dixon, left, and Greg Shantz perform at McKecks Tap & Grill on Dec. 11.

Dixon and friends rock the night away for food bank

By Mark Arike Staff writer

McKecks Tap & Grill was at capacity on Dec. 11 for the fourth annual Carl Dixon and Friends Christmas Concert.

Dixon, a former frontman for The Guess

Who, was joined on stage by about a dozen other local performers throughout the night. Admission to the concert was \$10 plus an item for the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank.

The event raised close to \$800 cash plus toys and food.

Through my eyes

Excuses

Sometimes we make an excuse for things because we don't want others to know that we have done something wrong.

Why make excuses? I am guilty of this as is almost everyone. We all make an excuse for something.

"I couldn't make it to the game because my boss had me stay an hour late" is a prime example. Why can't we be more honest with one another? It's not too difficult to confess and say "I wanted to go hang out with the guys after work and I forgot about the game."

Are we concerned about the consequences of confession? I dislike that feeling of guilt when I make an excuse that isn't legitimate and I know that some of you know that feeling, too. I do confess a great many things to my grandmother. Some things I wouldn't tell anyone else due to how deeply personal they are.

I believe everyone has that one person, like a therapist or a significant other, or in my case my grandmother. I understand some things are extremely embarrassing, but if you hold it inside all it will do is eat you alive. Remember keeping things bottled up inside has volatile consequences. You snap at those you love and say things you don't mean.

People should not make excuses and instead we should all be honest. Why be

honest? Because we get more flies with honey than with vinegar, we gain more trust with

By Austin McGillion

honesty than lies. The more truthful we are the more people like us and that is a good thing. It is better to be remembered as a truthful thief than a lying public figure. It is better to be remembered as a scoundrel who gave back to the poor than a rich famous person who never gave anyone lower than them a passing glance.

In life we are not remembered for who we are or what colour we were, all people will remember 10 years after we have passed on is the deeds we have done. They will remember our charisma, our good and bad deeds, and the things we did for our families and our community. If we live like a coward we are remembered as such, but if we live like a hero and defend the people we care about most, we are remembered more fondly.

But even the most noble of deeds can go unnoticed, and the world may not remember you. Your family and loved ones, on the other hand, will. And that's why it's so important to treat them well and always be honest. Because in the end, they're all you have.



Highlander classifieds

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Classes begin Monday,
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OBITUARIES

Beverly 'Bev' Wilson (nee Pollard)

(Resident of Gooderham, Ontario)

Peacefully at home with her family by her side, on Friday morning, December 19, 2014 in her 77th year. Beloved wife of the late Robert "Bob" Wilson. Loving mother of Ken (Josie) of Kirkfield, Shari (Brian Miller) of Barrie and Cathie (Gil Johnson) of Rainbow Lake, Alberta. Cherished grandmother of Jenn (Craig), Katie, Marianne, Ally (Jeff), Cody, Braiden and greatgrandmother of Jackson, Emmett and Connor. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Sadly missed by her beloved friends, Pete, June, Mandy and Nicole. Predeceased by her parents Albert and Alice Pollard and by her brother Jim Pollard.

Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

Priends are invited to call at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy 118, Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209 on Monday afternoon, December 29, 2014 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Puneral Service in the Chapel on Tuesday morning, December 30, 2014 at 11 o'clock. Spring interment South Wilberforce Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario would be appreciated by the family.

EVENTS



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Highlander classifieds

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EVENTS

VON Smart Exercise Program. Tuesday's 11:00am - Hyland Crest, Thursday's 1:00pm - Echo Hills. Call Carol for more information 705-457-4551 (TFN)

PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month. 1:30-3:30 pm. Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team education room. October 8, November 12; December 10. Call Dave Graham 705-457-1296 (TFN)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - we care Meetings: Thursdays 12:00 - 1:00 pm, Sundays 10:30 -11:30 am. St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton. All welcome. 705-324-9900. (TFN)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) – every Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Boardroom at the Haliburton Hospital. (TFN)



Municipality of Dysart et al

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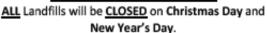












Regular winter hours are in affect for all other days.

Visit <u>www.dysartetal.ca</u> or contact the Municipal Office for more landfill information and updates. Subject to change without notice. (Landfill cards must be shown at the gate)

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.



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Contact the municipal office for more information on where to properly dispose of these items in Minden Hills.

Household Hazardous waste collection events for 2015 will be held on the Saturday of each long weekand beginning in May and ending in October. Information on these programs can be found on many mindentification or at the municipal office.

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

EVENTS



27th Annual Winter Workshop

Sunday, January 11, 2015 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Minden Arena, upstairs

At our workshop Anne Kulmala will be demonstrating how fur is worked after a trapper drops off a tanned peit. She will show how a fur is soaked, stretched and blocked. Then how a pattern is laid out and cut matching colour and fur pattern.

Admission \$2

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Minden Food Bank.



Bring your skinning knives for sharpening by Ron Post

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Post Custom Knives

SAPS

Canadian Trading Post Valley Cedar Leaf Oil Fish Fur Game Taxidermy

IN MEMORY

Bonita Francis Paterson-Dewey August 28, 1948 – January 11, 2014 Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas frees around the world below With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you, the Joy their voices bring, For It is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your hearts. But I am not so far away, Wie really aren't apart. So be happy for me, dear ones, You know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above. I sent you each a memory of my undying love. After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the biessing or love he has for each of you. So have a Memy Christmas and wipe away that tear. Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Your beloved Bon.

Memy Christmas, you are truly missed. Your loving Mother, A.M. Webster and sisters, Judy, Janice, Shari, Valerie, Cality and Joy.

NOTICE



Municipality of Dysart et al



Notice of Holiday Schedule

The Municipal Office will be closed from noon on December 24th, 2014 through to January 2nd and will re-open January 5th, 2015. There is a drop box available for your convenience on the side of the municipal office at 135 Maple Avenue and general information can be obtained by browsing www.dysartetal.ca or by emailing info@dysartetal.ca

Holiday Landfill Hours

All landfills will be maintaining regular winter hours as posted, except:

Kennisis Landfill and West Bay Landfill which will be open on December 23rd and December 30th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All landfills are CLOSED on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Boxing Day: Hallburton and West Guilford are open

Christmas Eve: West Guilford is open

A.J. LaRue Free Public Skating

December 21-23 * December 28-30 * January 2nd * January 4th

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by local business.

Events calendar

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ACROSS

- Olympic sled
- Math proportion
- and crafts
- 14. Orangutans
- 15. Ohio city
- 16. Small wagon
- 17. Communicable
- Wind instrument
- Compass point (abbr.)
- Give temporarily
- 22. Reach a destination
- 24. Commando attack
- Thin
- 27. Find fault with
- 29. Turned white
- 31. Dined
- Pres. Lincoln
- 33. One-___ (biased)
- Bard of
- Pronoun
- 40. Surrealism's Salvador
- Gras (Fat Tuesday)
- 43. Youngster
- of humor
- 45. Smells
- 47. West Pointer
- 48. Stricter
- 52. Valise
- 53. Touch lovingly
- 54. Gong
- 56. Drain opener
- Interpretation of what one
- 63. Make over

sees

- Nebraska metropolis
- 65. Dictionary entry
- 66. Worry
- 67. Private teacher
- 68. Till bills

DOWN

- Shoe fastener
- "Once ____ a time..."
- Electricity source
- Philadelphia time zone (abbr.)
- Was furious
- Related
- 7. Walked upon
- 8. Debt memo
- Marked down in price (2) wds.)
- 10. Oak nut
- Fanatical
- Treasure
- Direct
- 18. Foreigner
- Lipstick shades
- Showers frozen rain
- 27. Smile radiantly
- Liquid rock
- Minister
- Despise
- Notions
- Common weed
- Besides
- Count calories
- Charged particles
- 44. Hair location
- 46. Tyrant
- 48. Winter accessory
- 49. Starchy tuber (sl.)
- Corrode
- Transplant
- 52. Transparent
- 54. Annoying child
- 55. Canyon effect
- 57. Olden times
- 58. Purposes
- 61. Aussie bird
- 62. Pair

DECEMBER 2014 & JANUARY 2015 EVENTS SATURDAY FRIDAY

Free community Christmas dinner, Lloyd Watson



30 Years of Artifacts - Minden

Hills Museum - 10 pm - 5pm

The Dead Zones: Lake Ecology - Natures Place -10 am - 5 pm

Contemporary Music Service Haliburton United Church -

11:15 a.m.

30 Years of Artifacts - Minden Hills Museum - 10 pm - 5pm

The Dead Zones: Lake Ecology - Natures Place -10 am - 5 pm

In Search of the Elusive Wolf - Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve Ltd. - 12 am - 4 pm

Minden Hills Table Tennis -Minden Community Centre 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Public Skating AJ LaRue Arena, 11 am - 12:30

Ketih Tallman Memorial Arena 3-4:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Family Fun New Year's Eve Minden Community Centre, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Wilberforce Legion New Year's Party - 9 p.m. to close, \$20 per person, buffet

FRIDAY

Public Skating AJ LaRue Arena, 11 am - 12:30



Minden Branch

SUNDAY

Public Skating AJ LaRue Arena, 11 am 12:30 pm



Haliburton Branch General meeting, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary, last Thursday, 1 p.m. Meat draw, Friday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$2/draw. 50/50 draw, Saturday, 4 p.m. Breakfast, 2nd and 4th Sunday, 9:30-1 p.m. Bridge, Monday 1 p.m.

Open dart night, Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Bid Euchre, Wednesday, 1 p.m. Bingo \$500 jackpot, \$1,000 jackpot on last Wednesday of the month

Christmas party ft. Northern Jam and open

mic, Dec. 20 4-7 p.m.

Lunch menu, Monday - Friday, 12-2 p.m. Seniors "B-d" Euchre, Tuesday, 1 p.m. Meat Draw, Wednesday, lunchtime. Creative Crew, Thursday, 10 a.m. Ladies darts, Thursday, 1 p.m. Euchre, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Fish/Wings & Chips, Friday, 5-7 p.m. Mixed darts, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Sports Fan Day, Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

Wilberforce Branch Pool, Friday, 1:30 p.m. Spaghetti dinner, Friday, 5-7 p.m. Jam session, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Everyone

Meat draw, Saturday, 2 p.m. Bid euchre cancelled, returns on Jan. 5 Fun darts cancelled, returns on Jan. 7 Wednesday, closed early at 5 p.m. " No karaoke until further notice

Merry Christmas to all from Branch 624

executive and staff.

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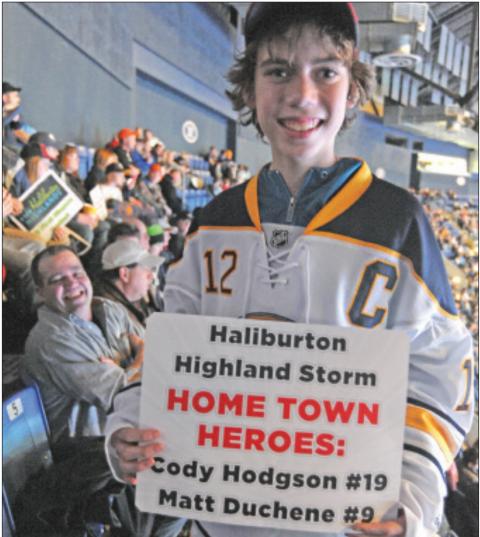
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Highlander events







Photos by Mark Arike ne First Niagara

Top: Children get a good look at the ice from the Sabres' bench in the First Niagara Center. Left: Liam McCracken, 13, proudly represents the Highlands after winning a Brian Gionta jersey. Above: Matt Duchene, left, and Cody Hodgson walk up the stairs toward local fans.

Highlander events



Photo by Mark Arike

Tim Turner takes a look at the Sabres' wall of fame.

Storm land in Buffalo for hockey showdown

Continued from page 1

with the cost of the trip.

Upon arriving at the First Niagara Centre, about 50 kids received a tour of the arena from Sabres staff members Kristy Wilensky and Dan Ristine. This included stops at a wall of fame featuring the team's legendary players, the press box and the Sabres' bench.

There was plenty of oohing and aahing (and cell phone selfies) as kids took in all the sights around them.

As it neared game time, the Haliburton crowd made their way to their seats in the 300 level. Each spectator held a sign in their hands to show their support of Duchene and Hodgson, and let the other 19,000 people in the arena know where they were from.

Sporting an Avalanche jersey and a souvenir MyHaliburtonHighlands T-shirt, Carmen Webster and Arlene Burch couldn't wait to see the puck drop at centre ice.

"I cheer for both teams," said Burch, pointing out that she knows Duchene's grandparents Jane and Emile. "I just am so proud of both of them."

The two found out about the trip through Parker Pad & Printing.

"If it wasn't for Janis we wouldn't be here," said Burch, who came with her husband Randy.

Both were happy about how smoothly the trip was going and were glad they didn't have to worry about driving.

"Crossing the border was a breeze," said Webster. "Everything is very simple."

Although the Avalanche dominated the Sabres with a 5-1 victory over the home team, the Haliburton fans enjoyed the game nonetheless. At one point, the entire group received a shout out on the arena's large jumbotron.

As soon as the final buzzer sounded, the group was instructed to make their way to the 100 level for a brief visit from Duchene and Hodgson.

At 23 years old, Duchene was drafted by Colorado in the 2009. He grew up in Haliburton and attended Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. This past February, Duchene became an Olympic gold medalist when Team Canada defeated Sweden 3-0 in the men's hockey series at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Also a centre, Hodgson was born in Haliburton but moved to Markham with his family at the age of eight. He has a cottage on Haliburton Lake and his father, Chris, is a former MPP for the riding. He was selected 10th overall in the 2008 draft by the Vancouver Canucks.

Duchene and Hodgson have a storied history of playing together, which started in their childhood years at the local arena. They were teammates on the OHL's Brampton Battalion and won gold medals together as players on Canada's under-18 team in 2008.

The large group that gathered to get a glimpse of both players waited patiently. Now out of their jerseys and dressed in suits, Duchene and Hodgson walked out together to greet their fans.

With Duchene in a rush to catch a flight, one-on-one time with both players was limited. Some were lucky enough to receive autographs during the gathering.

"I promise I'll see you guys in the summer," said Duchene, before posing for a group shot with Hodgson.

Hodgson managed to speak with The Highlander before having to fly out to Boston.

"Obviously we didn't win, but I'm glad that they could get the experience of being around the NHL," he said, adding that these

experiences help kids realize that dreams can come true.

Hodgson commended Parker and the rest of the group for organizing the trip. He also thanked Sabres staff for accommodating a tour of the arena.

"It was a good atmosphere tonight, having the guys all come down. I really appreciate all of the support that Haliburton's given me over my career."

He likened it to playing with the Brampton Battalion in Peterborough because he would often receive such a strong showing of support from Haliburton.

Despite a long day (the coach buses pulled into A.J. LaRue Arena around 4 a.m.) everyone made it home safely.

"I think the trip was excellent," said Parker.
"I think the kids got treated really well by
the Buffalo Sabres management. We weren't
promised that we'd get to see Matt and Cody,
but both of the boys changed incredibly quick
so they could see them and that was great."

Parker isn't yet sure how she'll celebrate Parker Pad's sixth anniversary in the community.

"I have no plans yet," she said. "It will take a bit to top this one."

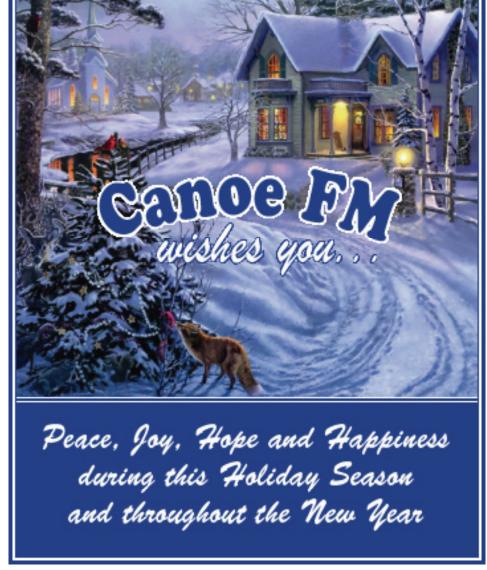
What's on



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& Spaghetti Supper

Saturday, January 10 Supper 6pm Meeting 7pm Lloyd Watson Centre

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Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillon in Hallburton



What's on



File photo

Maiya and Liam Wiktorski joined reporter Mark Arike for his first skiing experience last year at Sir Sam's. How will you spend the holidays?

Holiday fun in the Haliburton Highlands

By Matthew Desrosiers Editor

From sledding to skating, Christmas dinners and New Year's parties, there's no shortage of things to do this holiday season.

Start by participating in one of several Christmas dinners happening across Haliburton County on Dec. 25. In Wilberforce, the community has come together to offer a free Christmas dinner at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre, from 2-6 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the dinner.

McKecks in Haliburton is also holding a free

dinner on Christmas Day. Anyone who wishes of music, and a buffet dinner served until to take part should stop in between 2-4 p.m. for the traditional turkey dinner.

New Year's is fast approaching, and Minden Hills is set to host its annual family fun party at the community centre. The event is family friendly, with skating and tobogganing happening from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Hot chocolate will be served and horse-drawn wagon rides offered from 6-8 p.m. Skate and toboggans are not provided.

For a more adult get together, the Wilberforce Legion will host a New Year's party on Dec. 31, from 9 p.m. until close that night. For \$20, visitors can enjoy an evening

around 11 p.m.

Parties and formal gatherings aside, some of the best holiday activities happen on the ice or outdoors in the snow.

All three municipal arenas are open throughout the holidays for free family skates. See page 8 of this week's issue for a list of skate times in Minden Hills.

In Dysart, the A.J. LaRue Arena will be open from Dec. 28-30, and Jan. 2 and 4 from 11: a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for public skating. The ice times have been donated by local community businesses.

The Keith Tallman Memorial Arena in

Wilberforce is open every Sunday from 12:30-2 p.m. for free public skating, as well as Dec. 30 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride is now open for the season. Visit sirsams.com for hours of operation throughout the holidays. Lessons are available for those who want to try skiing or boarding for the first time.

Not everything in Haliburton County costs money to enjoy. Take a step outdoors, put on your snowshoes, and enjoy a nice hike through the woods with your family. Whatever you're into, the Highlands has something to offer.



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HOLIDAY HOURS CHRISTMAS EVE 7AM - 3PM CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY 9AM - 3PM NEW YEARS EVE 7AM - 3PM NEW YEARS DAY 9AM - 3PM

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us!



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The Agents and Staff of Royal LePage Lakes of Halibuxton wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and all the best in the New Year!



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